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# THE NEGRO WORKER

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Vol. 1

July 1931

No. 7

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**Defend the 8 Negro Boys!**

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**ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE  
OF NEGRO WORKERS, 8 ROTHESOUDSTR., HAMBURG, GERMANY**

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**Price 5 cents**

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## Introduction to Pamphlet: ("A. B. C. of Trade Unionism for Negro Workers")

The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers has asked comrade Losovsky, secretary of the **Red International of Labour Unions**, to write a pamphlet dealing with the question of trade union organization and the Negro Workers. This pamphlet „The A. B. C. of Trade Unionism for Negro Workers“ deals in the most concise and concrete manner with the burning problem before the Negro masses, the organization of the Negro workers against capitalist exploitation and slavery.

In this pamphlet, the methods and forms of organization of struggle are explained with utmost clarity, and the concrete policy to be adopted for a successful struggle against Capitalism and its agents the reformists and trade union bureaucrats.

In this issue of the "Negro Worker" —, we print the preface to this important pamphlet. This pamphlet must receive the widest possible distribution among the Negro toilers. Every class conscious Negro and white worker will need this pamphlet as a guide in the organization and mobilization of the Negro masses for the decisive struggle against capitalist slavery.

International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

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Published by the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers. — Address all monies, articles, letters, etc. etc. to: 8, Rothesood Strasse, Hamburg, Germany. — J. W. Ford, Editor-in-Chief.

*Workers of the World Unite!*

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## Increase and Spread the Scottsboro Defense

The storm of international protest against the planned execution of 8 young Negro workers on a frame-up charge, at Scottsboro, Alabama, that has arisen throughout the world and grows in volume, has shocked the bourgeoisie. **ONLY MIGHTY MASS PROTEST OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAT CAN STOP THE EXECUTION OF THE 8 BLACK PROLETARIANS!**

Mass demonstrations and meetings of workers of all races as well as stormy scenes before American consulates have been held throughout Europe and America, and in South Africa and Latin America, protesting indignantly against the frame-up of their class brothers and demanding their release. **NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!** The bourgeoisie has been astounded at this wonderful demonstration of international solidarity — — **AT THE SPECTACLE OF WORKERS OF ALL RACES RAISING THEIR FISTS IN DEFENSE OF 8 NEGRO PROLETARIANS.**

At Berlin workers, under the leadership of the Communist Party and the International Labour Defence, made mighty demonstrations before the American consulate.

At Paris a demonstration before the American consulate was broken up by the police.

In South Africa native and poor white workers themselves ground down under the heel of Boer and British imperialism raised their protest.

At Hamburg and extending into the country districts over 5 huge mass meetings and demonstrations have been held; comrade André, the well known leader of the Red Front Fighters, and others have spoken. Altogether over 20,000 workers have taken part, and the wave of protest has been great.

On July 9th a great mass meeting was held at the International Seamen's Club at Hamburg in which African seamen took part. Representatives of the International Labour Defence and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers spoke on the history of the case and its class significance. The mass of workers expressed their indignation by protest resolutions denouncing the frame-up of these boys by the American capitalists and demanding their immediate release. On the same day a demonstration was held at the American consulate.

At Dresden and Cologne, Germany, windows of the American consulates were broken in and the workers hurled bottles into the windows containing messages:

**Stop the Lynching! Hands Off the 8 Negro Workers!** In these and many other towns of Germany the workers have demonstrated under the leadership of the Communist Party and the International Labour Defence.

At Geneva, Switzerland, on the occasion of the holding of the International Conference on African Children, the frame-up was denounced before this body by

the representative of the League Against Imperialism. On the following day a protest meeting was held in Geneva at which a representative of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro workers spoke. Under the Leadership of the Swiss Section of the International Labour Defence, workers demonstrated before the American consulate. They paraded through the streets despite the police order against it and then held their meeting before the Consulate. The police tried to break up the meeting but the workers fought back, several were arrested. The walls of the American consulate building were painted with Big Red letters: **Down with Lynch Rule in the U.S.A! Stop the Murder of the 8 Negro Boys!**

Workers in many other countries in England, Cuba etc., have joined in the International protest. In Moscow and Leningrad and many other cities and factories throughout Russia mighty mass demonstrations arose in indignant protestation against this most brutal frame-up of 8 children by American capitalism.

Comrades, this international spirit of solidarity is the only kind of language that the bourgeoisie will heed. This mass movement bringing about the solidarity of workers throughout the world, will bring so much pressure upon the blood thirsty capitalist bosses of the U.S.A. that they will be forced to release our class brothers.

Telegrams and cables have poured in upon the Governor of Alabama from over the world. A cable of protest was received from a group of scientists with the name of Albert Einstein, the famous German scientist at the top. At Leningrad there was a great protest of the toiling cultural and scientific workers engineers, technicians, educational and art workers.

This has been a mighty demonstration of world sympathy and international solidarity.

But comrades and fellow workers, the boys are still in the clutches of the feindish boss class. Only an appeal to a higher court has delayed the case so far. There is nothing but capitalist "justice" in these courts. This means that the boys will be executed unless we raise a mightier international protest for their actual release.

The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers calls upon the international proletariat to increase its vigilance, to increase its protests. Demonstrate before American consulates! Let the bosses feel the mighty fist of the international proletariat!

To the workers of Alabama both white and black, organize Self-Defence Corps composed of both white and black workers. Defend your right to assembly! Defend your meetings! Demonstrate for the release of the boys! You are fighting for bread and life. The bosses are trying to hide from you unemployment and starvation. They are trying to divide you and thereby destroy your movement.

**Down with white terror and lynching, Death to Lynchers!**  
**Long live International solidarity!**

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## August First

**the International Day of Struggle Against Imperialist War** places very great tasks upon the Negro workers and especially the sea workers. In unity with their white class brothers they must struggle against the preparations for a war of intervention in the Soviet Union of Russia, against the continuous murderous attacks of the bourgeoisie upon the movements and revolts of the Negro toilers, against the daily attacks upon their living conditions and standards.

**Great strides are being made in the Soviet Union** in the building up of a workers State. These strides are great lessons to all colonial peoples and oppressed races. Already in one colonial land (China) the lessons of the October Revolution in Russia in 1917 and the lessons of Soviet (workers') Power are being put into practice. These facts along with the fact of the rights of national minorities in the U.S.S.R. are sources of great inspiration to the colonial people.

**In Soviet Russia there is no unemployment.** The wages, standards of living and cultural development of the people are constantly rising. On the farms collectivisation is growing at a tremendous rate, resulting in better and better conditions for the farm workers and peasants.

**Capitalism is decaying.** There are millions and millions of unemployed and starving workers in the capitalist countries. The bosses are making vicious attacks upon the wages of those who are working, their standards of living are being constantly lowered. In the colonial lands, that are ruthlessly exploited by the capitalists, millions of people are starving thru unemployment, due to the drop in price of the main agricultural products, and the agrarian crisis.

**The class hatred of the imperialist powers for the Soviet Union** is brought about by the difference between the tremendous strides of Socialist Construction in the U.S.S.R., its inspiration to the colonial peoples, and that of decaying capitalism where workers are starving. These are the reasons why the Great Powers are feverishly preparing war for intervention in the Soviet Union, in order to try to crush the fatherland of oppressed peoples.

**The murderous suppression of the colonial revolutionary movement** and the sharpest measures of terror against the oppressed masses is a part of the war preparation and intervention in the U.S.S.R. At the same time the bourgeoisie tries to pass the burden of its economic crisis onto the backs of the colonial masses (who are already weighed down by unbearable burdens and brutal oppression) through special colonial taxation schemes, through brutal forced labour conditions, through the lowest possible standards of living, over work and speed-up, whether in their own lands or in the transport industry. The bourgeoisie is increasing to an ever greater degree white terror against the colonial masses and especially against the Negro toilers. The smashing and breaking down of the movements of the colonial people on the part of the bourgeoisie, is an attempt to break the resistance of these toilers and to prepare the way for war, as for example:

**Black Africa and the Negro Movement** — the destruction of native villages in the Sudan and Central Africa by the French imperialists because the natives refuse to pay taxes, the same in Sierra Leone by the British imperialists who at the same time killed many native peasants, also in the Belgian Congo where only recently a revolt of the natives has been suppressed by the ruthless slaughter of natives; suppression of the harbour workers strike in Dahomey, suppressions in Madagascar — jail and hard labour for non-payment of taxes; the shooting down of native women in Nigeria by the British imperialist, suppression of the movements of the natives in East Africa, the brutal murdering of native workers in South Africa on Dingaan's Day, sluggings and brutality on May 1st when the workers stormed the houses of the rich demanding work, and relief from unemployment; the campaign of murderous lynch law in the U.S.A., the frame-up and sentencing of 8 Negro boys in Alabama to be electrocuted; the suppression of the workers and peasants movement in the West Indies by U.S.A. marines, the reign of terror in Cuba by Machado the puppet president of American finance capital.

All of this comrades is proof that the bourgeoisie and their native lackeys are not only trying to smash the struggles of the colonial masses for freedom, but are

also trying to safe guard themselves, in case of war, by having the colonial masses and oppressed races completely subjected.

### Colonial Toilers as Cannon-fodder

**The bourgeoisie intends to use colonial toilers in their imperialist armies as cannon-fodder.** The imperialists will enter into war against the Soviet Union, when they think they have crushed the revolutionary movements in the colonial lands, on the one hand, and on the other hand when they have "peace and order" inside their own lands by beating down the revolutionary movements there. Therefore the means of struggle against imperialist war on the part of colonial toilers is to struggle against the suppression of the revolutionary movements in the colonial lands, against white terror, lynching, soldier massacres and police brutality and to join hands with the workers in the capitalist countries and the transport industry.

**The campaign against imperialist war danger and intervention in the U. S. S. R.** is part of the daily struggles of the transport proletariat for bettering their conditions on ships, in ports and in the transport industry. While the bourgeoisie are piling up huge profits in the shipping industry and spending great sums of money for war preparations, the workers of the transport industry and especially the colonial seamen are threatened with wage cuts, speeded-up, undermanning and most horrible conditions on the ships. The colonial seamen are nothing but slaves to the ship-owners. They have the lowest wages and worse working conditions, while a united campaign on the part of the ship-owners is on to reduce their wages still further. The contractors, boarding house men and serangs work hand in hand with the ship-owners in exploiting the seamen. While huge profits are extracted from Africa by the imperialists, ever greater burdens are placed upon the natives through increased taxations, etc. The reformist unions of the Amsterdam International not only play the role of storm brigades and war inciters against the Soviet Union but do everything in their power to carry out the policies of the bourgeoisie in dividing the ranks of the workers, and helping to exploit the colonial lands.

**International Solidarity.** It is well known that international capital and the ship-owners try to utilize the colonial seamen against the white seamen and the white seamen against the coloured seamen and black workers against white workers in economic and other struggles and, together with the reformist trade union leaders of the I. T. F. propagate race hatred and incite the white seamen against the colonial seamen. Therefore we must give special attention to bringing unity and international solidarity between coloured and white workers. Every effort must be made to protest and demonstrate against the suppression of the revolts of the Negro toilers, for the release of the 8 Negro boys in Alabama and all political prisoners.

**The 1st of August campaign must be utilized with a view of organizationally strengthening the I. S. H. (International of Seamen and Harbour workers) among the colonial seamen, the recruiting of new members from among the colonial seamen must be in the forefront of our work of mobilizing these seamen against war preparations and for the fight to better their living conditions and for the defense of the Soviet Union.**

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# Hands off the Scottsboro Prisoners

(Leading article from the Leningrad Daily "Krasnaya Gazetta" of 6th July, 1931.)

The toilers of the world have raised their voice in protest against the provocation of the American bourgeoisie, who have condemned 8 young Negro proletarians to death. The prisoners of capital in Scottsboro are now under the defense of the toilers of the whole world. The representatives of the toiling intelligentsia of Leningrad, the academicians, the educational, art and scientific workers, the engineers and technicians, met on the 4th of July in the historical hall of the Palace bearing of Uritsky, to the number of 1,500 persons, and have joined their voice of protest against the murder which is now being prepared.

The chairman of the District Committee of the MOPR (International Labour Defense) Comrade Fligelmann, in opening the meeting called upon all that is best, most honest and really cultured in the countries of decaying capitalism to join under the banners of the MOPR in the campaign of international solidarity and pointed out that following the example of the toiling intelligentsia of the Soviet Union they must include themselves among the best intellectual forces of the world.

"The attempt on the life of the 8 Negroes link in the **chain of the offensive of capital.**"

Comrade Wilhelm Pick who was the first speaker said that **the attempt on the lives of 8 Negro proletarians, is but a habitual link in the general offensive of capital.** The bourgeoisie is trying by means of the white terror to frighten away the masses, who are becoming revolutionized, from the struggle against capitalism. The decaying capitalist system is striving to prolong its existence by placing upon the shoulders of the toiling masses an unbelievably heavy load. **In carrying on a struggle against white terrorism, we are fighting against the whole capitalist system.**

After Comrade Pick, Comrade Padmore a Negro worker and the representative of the Communist Party of America mounted the tribune. He said that last year in America 44 Negroes were subjected to lynching and for the first half year in 1931 the lynchings have already exceeded 20. The toiling Negroes of America are directing their gaze to their class brethren, to the pioneers of socialist construction in the U. S. S. R. The proletariat of the whole world are coming forward in the defense of the 8 convicted boys in Scottsboro, the oldest one of whom is 20 years of age and the youngest one 14. In calling for the fraternal international solidarity of the black and white proletarians of all countries, we say: **America will be Red.**

The Vice-President of the Academy of Science of the U. S. S. R., the academic W. Kamarov replaced on the tribune the Negro worker and said: **the Academy of Sciences joins, in my person, in your defense of the innocently oppressed black representatives of the world proletariat.** Today's resolution of protest must reach the whole world. **Hands off the Scottsboro prisoners!**

The next speaker was Alexei Tolstoy representing the Federated Union of Soviet Writers. He read his article-pamphlet. The reading was interrupted several times by stormy applause on the part of the audience.

The artist Bransiv, holding the order of merit of the Republic, the representative of the Leningrad lawyers, Comrade Ravich, Professor Motorin, the American scientist and scientific worker in the anthropological and ethnographical museum Comrade Barton and Comrade Feld representing a group of American building workers, also spoke demanding the annulment of the conviction.

The resolution of protest was adopted unanimously.

# The International Conference on African Children

By J. W. FORD.

From June 22nd to 25th, 1931 an International Conference on African Children was held at Geneva, Switzerland, called by the "Save the Children International Union".

This Conference fully confirmed what the representative of the League Against Imperialism and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers declared on the floor of the Conference: "This Conference is trying to conceal the fact that the dreadful fate of the African Children is due to Imperialist Exploitation" . . . "It is imperialist barbarism in the colonies, and in particular in Africa, that is the immediate cause of the terrible death rate among African Children . . . Imperialist exploitation keeps them in ignorance, exploits their youthful energies to exhaustion and death . . . threatens the population of Africa with extermination." "These facts you are attempting to conceal and shut up!"

## Organizers Associated with Plundering Africa.

The organizers and the Conference itself were made up of high colonial and Governmental officials of the various colonial powers (mainly of Britain), men of high nobility, industrialists, so-called labour leaders of the 2nd International and the British Labour Party, archbishops, bishops, priests, generals, diplomats, colonial settlers, doctors, lawyers and colonial administrators. There were over 163 individuals of this sort, registered at the Conference, we find them to be the same people who are helping to plunder and exploit the African colonies.

In order to give it a sham of dignity and a sort of blessing of Geneva and the imperialist Powers, at the opening session there were representatives from the League of Nations, the International Labour Office (which is head by the arch-enemy of colonial people, Albert Thomas) the Mandate Commission of the League and other International organizations of Geneva, as well as high standing local officials of Geneva. Despite all this display and show the Conference was not in interest of the Children and peoples of Africa.

## Slave-Drivers make all Reports.

All of the Official Reporters on the questions on the order of business were white — colonial settlers, doctors, professional men, priests, preachers, industrialists, old women missionaries, government officials, etc.

The discussions that arose on the basis of the "prepared reports" and the fact that everything was done to keep the African representatives from telling THE TRUTH ABOUT THE AFRICAN CHILDREN, showed that they were trying to conceal the real facts.

There were nineteen pamphlets prepared beforehand as the basis of discussion, dealing with such topics as "Still-birth and Infant Mortality, preventive measures and remedies", "Education with regard to preparing children for Life". "General Conditions of work for children and adolescents", etc.

## Conceal Causes of Terrible Death Rate

The doctors talked about the suffering of the mothers at child birth, about the "prevalence of syphilis, gonorrhea" and other diseases; the missionaries wanted more mission schools and bibles; the industrialists wanted more "legal" means of

enforcing Forced Labour conditions on the natives. The labour "leaders" supported the industrialists. One "labour" leader, a Mr. Harris of the British Labour Party, declared that he was against the mass education of the natives. Each Governmental official was trying to show the good side of his government in colonial exploitation.

The pamphlets and reports skilfully concealed the facts about the cause of the terrible high death rate among the African children, about the tremendous high death rate among the whole population. They ignored the fact that malnutrition of mothers, lack of sanitation as well as compulsory labour in advance stages of child birth and ruthless exploitation was the cause of high death rate. They "forgot" to say anything about the educational system (or what is called educational system) being servile to imperialist exploitation.

None of the reporters spoke of the world economic crisis of capitalism that is causing untold misery and starvation among the people, nor of the brutal imperialist exploitation and oppression — forced labour, heavy taxation, and brutal suppressions, all of which is exterminating the peoples of Africa by the hundreds of thousands. The Conference did not touch on these things.

#### African Insulted.

Despite the fact that the invitations to the Conference offered "a Common Platform for the pooling of experiences and the exchange of ideas", the representatives of the African people had forcibly to wring out of the organizers sufficient time for a representative to give the truth about the African Children. One of the Negro representatives from the Gold Coast was called a liar from the platform when he stated facts about the ill-treatment of the natives in his country by the white missionaries. The representative of the League Against Imperialism and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers was chosen by the Negro delegates to make the report.

He had not spoken two minutes before he was interrupted and declared out of order, the chairman shouting: "Sit down, sit down!" a priest on the platform came up to eject him. The representative of the League refused to budge and told the chairman that he would not sit down until he had completed his speech. There was commotion in the hall. The chairman, realizing that greater disturbances would follow if he tried to prevent the report, allowed the speaker to proceed.

#### Exposure of Slavery and Extermination.

The speech based on the memorandum of the League Against Imperialism and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, endorsed by the Negro delegates, was a pitiless and scathing exposure, backed up by quotations from various documents of the brutal oppression and savage treatment of the Negro population of Africa by the imperialist exploiters and their agents, and completely showed up the whole hypocrisy of the conference, the organizers of which were supposed to be concerned about the well-being of African Children. It was a terrible story of the enslavement and extermination of the black population, out of whose sweat and blood the white invaders amass huge fortunes. All these facts are of course ignored by the so-called Saviours of the African Children. That is why the representative of the League declared that the African people must not have any faith in the Conference, that Conferences of this kind try to conceal the fact that the dreadful fate of the African children is due to imperialist exploitation, similarly as the League of Nations and the International Labour Office are doing and have done with regards to Forced Labour and slavery in Africa, at the same time making fake reports and telling lies about so-called forced Labour in

the Soviet Union; that there was no remedy without the abolition of imperialist oppression and domination. Attention was called to the fact that in the United States nine young Negro boys from 14 to 20 years of age have been sentenced to the electric chair on frame-up charges. That is the method of imperialism in dealing with Negro children.

### The Only Way Out.

The League against Imperialism and the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers pointed out at this conference that only by an **uncompromising determined and ceaseless struggle against imperialism** and its lackeys could the toiling masses of Africa win their freedom and that this struggle must be conducted by fighting for the right of the workers and peasants of Africa to organize, for freedom of trade unions and the right of assembly, for **higher wages and better working conditions**, for a working day of not more than 8 hours for adults and 6 hours for young workers, for special labour protective legislation for women workers and young workers, for the **complete abolition of all forced labour, contract labour and all other systems of disguised slavery**; by driving out of their country all labour recruiters and tax collectors; refusing to pay hut poll head and other taxes imposed by the imperialist exploiters. Their demands must also include **leave with pay for expectant mothers before and after child birth**, and the abolition of labourious work for women and children altogether; the **return of all confiscated land to the natives**, the elimination of illiteracy, establishment of free universal education and the **abolition of child labour**; free medical attention for women and children at the expense of the State — free hospitals and dispensaries; the introduction of obligatory unemployment insurance for all unemployed workers, to be paid for by the State; grants to be given out to unemployed workers in case of sickness etc., free rent for all unemployed workers, abolition of hut taxes altogether; free fuel, potatoes, milk etc., for children of unemployed workers to be paid for by the State. They must **organize defense against all forms of terror**, refuse to serve as cannon-fodder, fraternize with soldiers of opposing armies in case of war, **join in international solidarity** with the workers and all oppressed people against imperialist war. They must fight for the **right of self-determination**, for the **complete independence of all Negro colonies from imperialist rule**, for the defense of the Soviet Union.

There were 7 Negro representatives present. Although they voiced their protest by united action, most of them were not determined and sufficiently militant against these fakers. This is explained by their social composition. Two of them were school teachers, one a lawyer from the Gold Coast, one a law student in London, one from America representing a fraternal organization, one representing an East African organization but now residing in London, and the representative of the League Against Imperialism.

Only those people who in actual practice will make an **uncompromising, fearless and determined struggle against imperialism** can serve the cause for the freedom of the Negro peoples!

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**Editor's Note:** A copy of the speech, which is a pitiless and scathing exposure of brutal oppression and savage treatment — a terrible story of the enslavement and extermination of black people, out of whose sweat and blood the white invaders amass huge fortunes, should be in the hands of every Negro and every militant worker. It can be secured free of charge by writing to the editor.

# A. B. C. of Trade Unionism for Negro Workers (Preface)

By A. Losovsky, Secy., R.I.L.U.

The Negro worker is the most oppressed of the oppressed, a pariah among pariahs. He not only forms the material of which hundreds of millions of dollars are squeezed out, but the embodies in himself the whole system of oppression created by bloody capitalism. The Negro proletarian is oppressed both as a proletarian and a Negro. Capitalism succeeded not only in enslaving tens of millions of black workers but also in raising a Chinese wall between black and white workers.

## Struggle Against White Chauvinism, Against Racial Isolation.

The theory of the lower race, the view that the black is a third rate sort of a man, this theory is inculcated into millions of proletarians in capitalist countries. White chauvinism, the most odious inheritance which the worker has received from capitalist society and consequently the question of the organisation of Negro workers is closely connected with the struggle against white chauvinism, against racial isolation and against the whole of that ideological corruption, which has been introduced in the labour movement by capitalism and reformism.

First of all about the organisation of Negro workers. In spite of the fact that there are tens of millions of black proletarians, the number of organised among them is quite insignificant. This may be explained in the first place by the fact that for long years the reactionary trade unions have placed obstacles in the way of the black workers. They prefer to exploit the black workers hand in hand with the bourgeoisie, than to fighting against capitalist exploitation hand in hand with the black workers. In the U.S.A. there are now still a number of unions which do not accept black workers in its ranks. There are other unions who formally admit Negroes, but they are placed in a special category, in a position of third rate citizens, who are tolerated but who are not afforded equal rights in a proletarian organization.

## Condition of Life in the African Colonies

The same position obtains in South Africa where white chauvinism is raging among the trade unions and the white workers everywhere except in the revolutionary wing of the labour movement. But however hard the conditions of life and labour of the Negroes in U.S.A. and South Africa, these cannot even be compared with the conditions and the atmosphere in which the Negro workers have to live and work in the African colonies in Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Kenya, Congo and in the West Indian islands, in all these the Negro workers are slaves, in the literal sense of the word. The buying and selling of human beings, corporal punishment, the most absolute lawlessness, shootings on the least pretext and violence, naked and unabashed of a handful of white exploiters over millions of blacks, such is the picture of "white civilisation" on the black continent.

## Only Revolutionary Workers Voice Protest.

But who raises his voice in protest against the unheard of oppression and subjugation of the blacks? Who raises the question of the removal of all racial and political barriers? Who holds out the fraternal hand of solidarity to the Negro proletarian, the oppressed of the oppressed? Only the revolutionary wing of the labour movement, only the Communist Parties and the revolutionary trade unions,

only the sections of the Communist International and the Red International of Labour Unions.

### **Socalled Socialists Help Enslave Coloured Workers.**

If we take the Second and Amsterdam Internationals, the Pan-American Federation and the American Federation of Labour, in general all the reformist organisations we see that in relation to the Negroes they keep to the same policy as their bourgeoisie. The socalled Labour Party is now in power in England? What did it do for the improvement of the conditions of the Negroes in the British colonies? Which measures did these leaders of the Second International adopt so as to equalise the rights of the Negroes with those of the white workers? They did nothing. Just as under the governments of Lloyd George and Baldwin, so also under the government of MacDonald, the Negro workers is the slave of the white master who can kill him for which he would, at best be made to pay a paltry fine. What is being done in this direction by the socialists of France and Belgium? What is being done by the reactionary trade union bureaucracy in the U. S. A.? What is being done by the sections of the Second and Amsterdam Internationals in South Africa? The very same that they do in relation to other coloured peoples. It is well known that the sections of the Second International are the most ferocious oppressors of the peoples of India, China, Indonesia etc. What they do in relation to the yellow races, that they also do in relation to the black.

### **Negro Workers Must Create FIGHTING Organizations**

This unheard of oppression of the great Negro masses provokes not only the muffled resistance, but also the conscious protest of the Negro workers. There is not now a Negro colony where a strike of an elemental rebellion does not from time to time break out as a protest against the continuing exploitation. But elemental revolts, elemental protests cannot lead to anything. To attain definite results, the Negro workers must create their own organizations. There is no colony where there are no wage workers. This means that the question of the formation of trade unions is now ripe for all countries. There are unions in U. S. A. and in South Africa, but this question must be put concretely also for Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Nigeria, the Congo, Kenya, Guadelupa, Martinique, the Gold Coast — in all places where there are Negro workers. The question of the establishment of workers' organizations must be raised.

### **Role Negro Petty-Bourgeoisie.**

It is true that such organizations have arisen in a number of Negro colonies, as for instance, in Trinidad and British Guiana. But these organizations, which are only labour by their composition, are largely under the influence of the petty-bourgeois nationalist elements or under the influence of the reformists of the imperialist countries. Every worker should ask himself: why should the reformists, who are not in favour of the independence of the colonies, worry about the labour organizations? If they really wished to help the Negro proletarians they would have come out resolutely against oppression and for the independence of the colonies, but this they are not doing. And the fact that they do not do it shows that they do not want it and that they desire to perpetuate the power of their bourgeoisie over the black slaves. What then are they aiming at in connecting themselves with the labour organizations in the Negro colonies? Their object is to keep back the workers from revolutionary struggle and to direct them on the path of verbal protest, absurd hopes for the good will of the bourgeoisie, in a word, to disrupt the struggle of the working class. The fundamental rule which every Negro prole-

tarian must follow is the complete independence of the workers' organizations from the national bourgeoisie, imperialism and reformism. Without this the trade union may be transformed into an instrument of a hostile class, into an instrument directed against the interests of the Negro working masses.

### How to Organize

The A. B. C. of the trade union movement has for its task to show how the trade union movement must be built up on the basis of the class struggle. In such places where trade unions already exist, where Negro workers have already gained some experience, they will see for themselves which part of this A. B. C. must be applied to the given country. But in so far as in the overwhelming majority of the Negro colonies the trade unions are still in an incipient state, in so far as in a number of Negro colonies the trade unions are still even mixed in their composition, not purely class organizations, but including in their number peasants, small masters etc., the A. B. C. of the Trade Union Movement can give an impulse to the more conscious elements in the direction of the class crystallisation of the trade union movement.

Whatever the level of industry, the size of the proletariat, the degree of its backwardness, one thing is clear: the trade union movement must be built up for the struggle against the employers and he who desires to fight successfully against the employers, must also fight against those people who, within the working class and within its organizations support the employers, i. e., against the reformist, the national-reformist and others.

### Sixth Part of World Won By Working Class

The Negro proletarian feels on his own back the whole weight of capitalist exploitation, but he must understand that he does not stand alone and that the International Revolutionary labour movement is on his side. He must understand that since every revolutionary proletarian knows that it is impossible to be emancipated from the yoke of capital, without emancipating at the same time the most exploited portion of the international proletariat, the Negro workers. However difficult the struggle of the Negro workers, however great the preponderance of the power of imperialists at the present moment, everyone of them must know that the whole capitalist system is breaking up at all points, that a sixth part of the globe, the U. S. S. R., has already been won by the working class and that the crash of imperialism, the crash of the system of the oppression of man by man is inexorably drawing near. Let then the black proletarians join in the fight of the international proletariat, let them build up their organizations and in united front with the revolutionary proletarians of other countries march forward to the attack on capitalism which has made hundreds of millions of people its slaves. But to wage a successful fight against mighty capitalism it is necessary to organize, organize, and once more to organize. And this pamphlet tells you how to do it.

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# Facts About the Soviet Union

The growing purchasing power of the population of the Soviet Union is shown by facts taken from the report of Comrade Selentzky, at the 6th Soviet Congress: In 1925 the bulk production of light industry amounted to a value of 4435 million roubles, in 1930 to 10 million roubles. In 1924 the wage fund amounted to about 3400 million roubles, in 1926/27 to 5300 million roubles, and in 1930 to 12½ billion roubles. This means that the buying power of the population has mighty increased.

The income of the country population too has grown at the same rate if not at the same speed of the industrial workers. The results show that the income of the COLLECTIVE farms, as compared with their income as individual peasant farmers, has doubled, and in many cases has grown three times more.

\* \* \*

**Wage developments in the Soviet Union from the report of Comrade Abolin**, on April 1930 last, at a joint session of foreign workers' delegates and delegates of the Central Union Council of the Soviet Union, showed that:

In the course of the last ten years there has been a considerable rise in wages in the U. S. S. R. In 1921 the average wage paid in the U. S. S. R. was 14 roubles per month, in 1930 it was 80 roubles. The rise in wages in 1929 was 9.8% over 1928, in 1930 8.7% over 1929, and in 1931 it will be 6% over 1930. Therefore in the last three years, the first 3 years of the 5 year Plan, the average monthly wage has increased from 66 roubles to 84½ roubles, that is by 27%.

Also for the older workers, who as a rule are the skilled workers the improvement and gain has been very much greater. During the last 3 years about 42% new workers (of lower qualification) have streamed into industry. Taking this into consideration it is estimated that the wage rise of the older workers averages more than 50%.

\* \* \*

## What about compulsory labour in the Soviet Union?

Comrade Molotov, in his great report on the international and inner-situation of the Soviet Union, given at the 6th Soviet Congress in Moscow, dealt with the question of compulsory labour. After exposing the actual conditions of forced labour imposed upon the workers in the capitalists countries and comparing these with the real freedom of working conditions in the U. S. S. R., he referred to convict work which he stated, is of course employed in the Soviet Union as elsewhere, but not as in the capitalist countries, for the purpose of exploiting the prisoners, but for the purpose of making them into useful members of socialist society by the educational influence of work, whilst at the same time using their working powers to the advantage of society.

It has never been denied, stated Comrade Molotov, that prison labour is employed, and is required of the prisoner. And there has been the less need to deny it, as the Soviet Constitution states: „The U. S. S. R. declares work to be the duty of every citizen of the Republic, and proclaims the slogan: 'He who does not work shall not eat'. Thus breaking relentlessly with the actual practice of capitalist society, in which the idlers and parasites have more than anyone else!"

\* \* \*

## The Socialist Reconstruction of Agriculture.

The advancement in collective farming shows that the number of individual peasant farms combined into collective farms in 1928 amounted to 400,000, in 1929

to one million, in 1930 to 6 million and by March 20th 1931 to 9,850,000. This means that almost 40% of the existing individual farms have already been combined together into such big collective farms. In some districts it has been as high as 67%. In the districts inhabited by the national minorities, collectivisation has embraced 2,200,000 individual farms. By May 20th the number of small and middle peasant farms combined into collective farms amounted to 12,838,000 or 51% in the whole U. S. S. R. In Ukraine it was 64%, in North Caucasia 82%, in the Central Volga 64%, in the autonomous Soviet Republic of the Crimea 82%, etc.

\* \* \*

**Women's part in the socialist order** has had a very great development. The Collective farming movement has brought about the full possibility of drawing the women of the country into the work of socialist construction, and of raising woman to a higher cultural level. Not until now have women had equal rights with men in the rural districts, and not until now have the necessary conditions been made making it possible for peasant women to be educated to take their part in the building of the state, and enabling this mighty reserve of woman labour to be trained to help the whole national economy.

\* \* \*

**The fear of the Five Year Plan by the Capitalists** is shown by an article in the press from a high governmental Councillor on "the question of the dangers of Soviet dumping", in which he deals with the report given by comrade Ordschonikidze on the carrying out of the 5 Year Plan in 4 years. He says:

"This report now lies before us, and every political economist sharing our capitalist views cannot but feel actual alarm when perusing these gigantic figures, flowing like an unrestrained stream across this report. To ignore these figures would be the purest ostrich policy, for they accord with facts, they threaten to overthrow the capitalist production of Europe and the United States in a very short time."

\* \* \*

**Foreign workers including one Negro delegate were elected to the Moscow and district Soviets in the last election from about 40 Moscow enterprises.**

\* \* \*

#### **Acute Problems of Socialist Construction.**

(Extracts from the great speech of Joseph Stalin, secretary of the communist Party of the Soviet Union, at Moscow on June 23.)

First of all we have succeeded in abolishing unemployment, that is to say, we have got rid of the power that exercises pressure on the 'labour market'. And secondly we have fundamentally altered the class relations in the villages, that is to say, we have overcome that mass misery which formerly drove the peasants into the towns to look for work. And then we have supplied the villages with tens of thousands of tractors and other agricultural machinery. We have defeated the Kulaks (the rich farmers, Editor). We have organized collective farms and given the peasants the possibilities of living and working like human beings. To-day the village can no longer be termed the step-Mother of the peasants and because of this the peasants are remaining in the villages. The 'flight of the peasants to the towns' has ceased and we no longer have an automatic supply of labour."

"But how are we to keep these workers in their factories? This can only be done by assisting them to make progress, by giving them higher wages, to organize the tariff system (wage system, Editor) in such a fashion that qualification is given its due reward. What does this mean? It means above all that the unqualified workers are given a chance to improve their position, that they will receive an incentive to rise into the ranks of the qualified workers. You are well aware that we need hundreds of thousands, even millions of qualified workers. But in order to obtain these qualified workers we must give the qualified workers an incentive to qualify themselves, an incentive to work their way up. The greater daring we show in this connection, the quicker will we succeed in abolishing fluctuations for this represents the most important means of doing so. Economics in this matter would be criminal, would be in opposition to the interests of our socialist constructive work."

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## History has a Long Memory

(The Scottsboro Case)

By Alexei TOLSTOY, the well known Russian Poet.

Ten thousand armed horsemen rushed into the little town of Scottsboro in order to sentence to death 8 Negro Workers.

If for this purpose it were necessary to prove that the Negroes had stolen the moon from the heavens — —

10,000 whites would have shouted: Yes!

The Tsarist government, in its time tried to deflect the pending revolutionary storm by setting the Christians against the Jews.

The British government from the same motives kindle in India the hatred between Mossemen and Hindus.

The American bourgeoisie, depressed by the growing crisis at home and the growing might of the proletarian Union of S. S. R. is seeking ways of salvation and is adopting the old prescription:

Cant, hypocrisy, national and race prejudice.

It is necessary to split the ever more closely consolidating masses of the proletariat.

And so, the old enmity between the white and coloured races is being galvanized into life, between the white colonizers and the black imported slaves.

The colour and smell of the skin is enough to bring a man to the hangman's rope.

"You, fifteen million unemployed, come to be divided:

Whites — to the right, Coloured — to the left ....

Eh, beat, hang, tear,

Destroy the blacks, the yellows, the reds, the coloured. —

America for the Americans!

There is no unemployment!"

The American bourgeoisie is frightened for its life.

All that live fight for life.

The microbes are swallowing microbes.

The lion tears to pieces the hyena.

The fourth in number and the last class, — the uprising proletariat, — is fighting for life.

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Life it calls socialism.

This word is understood by everyone here.

The idea of socialism is called to life by the wrath of the oppressed and the enslaved and the highest gift of the human spirit — the feeling of justice and disinterestedness.

Microbes do not understand this, and the bourgeoisie portion of humanity is also trying not to understand it.

The bourgeoisie is fighting for life.

It calls life all those conditions, in which separate individuals can push forward and seize as much good for themselves as possible.

The weak are crushed underfoot.

And the future?

This is the question for us, comrades.

The proletariat lives with its future.

The bourgeois has his eyes at the back of his head, the bourgeoisie is a dreamer and always in a melancholy mood.

They sigh for the clouds of the past, their Golden Age — somewhere thousands of years ago, —

In ancient Rome, in miraculous Carthage:

Blooming gardens, white marble palaces, transparent lakes, where the fishes are fed with the bodies of the slaves, —

Thus lived the godly merchants, the usurers and the planters with anointed bodies and scented beards.

And millions of slaves in chains on the plantations, in chains underground, in chains in the war galleys and the merchants' booths.

That was heaven.

If only the bourgeoisie would transport themselves there on a time machine ...

The methods of the struggle for life with us and with them is clear.

And so we, Soviet writers taking part as far as our strength will allow, in the building of the foundation of socialism,

We with feelings of disgusted indignation turn to you and say:

To you executioners of Alabama!

To you, ten thousand horsemen, mounted farmers, sons of frightened bourgeoisie.

To you members of the Young Men's Christian Association,

To you bankers fattening on the bloody billions of the war,

To you industrialists and speculators,

To you moralists and ideologists of the Carthaginian heaven, covered up by a counter-foil of the Bible,

To you false leaders of the workers, —

We demand from you: stop the execution of 8 black proletarians!

You are not even fighting, you come as a bandit to cut the throat of a sleeper. Really, one is ashamed to call himself a white man after this ....

Shame and disgrace will perhaps not stop you?

Your face is covered with the white mask of the Ku Klux Klan, ....

The principles of morality and humanity are applied by you in relation to the balances and goods imported from the U. S. S. R. ....

Fear should however stop you.

Make no mistake about it, —

### HISTORY HAS A LONG MEMORY.

Bourgeois economics is shaken to its foundations.

The curve of the crisis has gone down a precipice.

The world proletariat has no desire to drag out this devil on its shoulders.

8 Negro workers —

They are your enemies,

But these enemies will to-morrow be stronger than you.

Reflect and may you be seized with fear.

### HISTORY HAS A LONG MEMORY.

We demand from you:

Make any hypocritical smile you please and release our black comrades!

---

## WORKERS CORRESPONDENCE

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Editor "Negro Worker"  
Hamburg, Germany.

June 15th, 1931.  
Kroonstad, Free State.  
South Africa.

Dear Comrade,

I am writing from Lichtenburg Diggings where I have recently come from the Cape. Here I find African men and women having to go through the Dipping the same as animals, this is supposed to be protection against the outbreak of disease. Naturally the feeling against this thing is very high, both men and women have refused to comply with the order. However some have been sent to jail for disobeying this order.

Despite this, monster mass meetings are being organized to fight and combat this humbug, at the moment Committees are being organized in preparation for the meetings. The people here have not forgotten the strike which we organized in 1928.

Living conditions at the Diggings are disgraceful. Housing is almost as bad as a pig pen. This state of affairs is carried on by a government of people who are supposed to have two thousand years of civilization behind them. Wages which are worked for, but which in some cases are never paid, are from 7 s. 6 d. to 12 s. per week.

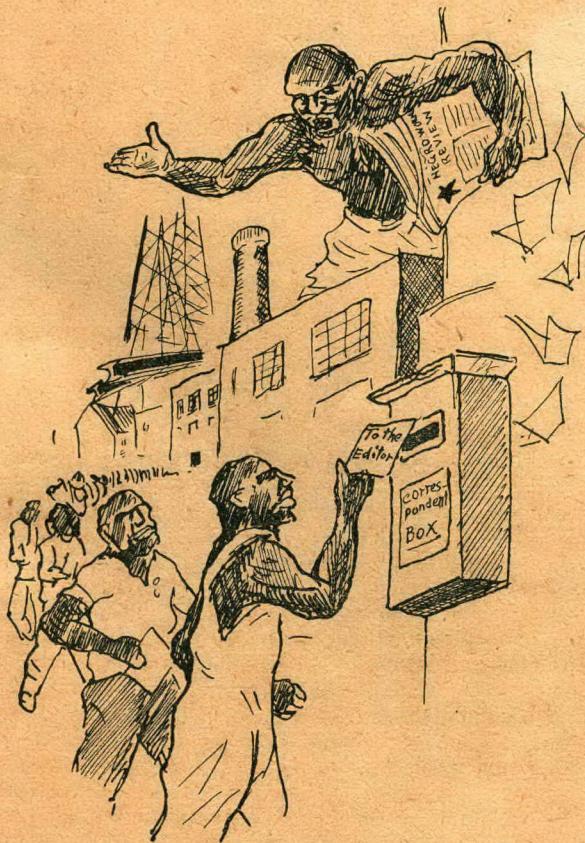
At no place have I found so many herbists and clergymen as there are at the Diggings. Some ministers appear not to have any congregation at all, yet they are here in full force. Then one meets with a number of intellectuals or quasi-intellectuals hanging around the Diggings exploiting the grievances of the people, and taking them into some lawyers, in order to earn some commission which is known as interpretation fee.

The I. C. U. no longer exists here.

The spectacle of the native children is too pitiful for words. There are no schools for them and the whole life is one of misery. Of course it is impossible to describe the complete state of dire poverty in the DIGGINGS.

Fraternally yours, M. K.

---



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about your conditions and struggles

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